

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS (“AALS”)

BYLAWS OF THE SECTION ON BALANCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION

1. Name

This Section shall be known as the Section on Balance in Legal Education.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to promote the communication and development of ideas among its members and the general membership of AALS concerning methods for improving legal education and the legal profession in ways that will promote personal well-being, optimal performance, and professional values among law students and lawyers.

3. Membership and Privileges

(a) Regular membership is open to faculty members and professional staff of law school members of AALS.

(b) Associate membership is open to any other person interested in the purposes of the Section.

(c) Unless otherwise permitted by applicable AALS Executive Committee Regulations, only regular members may be officers of the Section, vote in Section elections, or serve on the Section’s Executive Committee (“EC”).

(d) Associate members will have rights and privileges as determined by the AALS Executive Committee.

4. Officers

(a) **Officers.** The officers of the Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair and Secretary. If the Section determines to collect dues, a Treasurer shall also be appointed. All officers must be regular members of the Section. At the section’s annual business meeting during each AALS annual meeting, the membership of the section then in attendance shall select a Chair for the upcoming year and a Chair-Elect for the year after. In the event that the membership then in attendance so chooses, co-Chairs or co-Chair Elects may be appointed to fill those offices. The secretary shall be appointed by the incoming Chair or co-Chairs, as the case may be, for a term of one year. The treasurer, if any, shall serve as provided in these bylaws. Either the secretary or treasurer may be reappointed to their respective positions.

(b) Duties of Officers.

(i) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the EC; shall be responsible for the annual meeting program of the Section; shall appoint members of standing and special committees established in accordance with these bylaws; shall submit periodic reports are required by AALS; and shall report on the Section activities of the prior year at the AALS annual meeting.

(ii) The Chair-elect shall assist the Chair and perform the duties of the Chair during the Chair's absence or disability.

(iii) The Secretary shall record minutes of all EC meetings and, except as otherwise provided in the last sentence of this paragraph, distribute the same to the EC; when requested, shall assist the Chair in conducting elections, including counting and recording votes, and shall otherwise perform such other duties as the Chair or Chair-Elect may assign. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the Chair from deciding that, due to the particularly sensitive nature of the topic involved, a summary of all or a portion of an EC meeting should not be included in the minutes.

(c) **Vacancies.** Vacancies in officer positions shall be promptly filled. In the event that the position of Chair becomes vacant, the Chair-Elect shall fill the position and the EC by majority vote shall appoint a new Chair-Elect. At the next annual meeting, the membership shall elect a Chair and Chair Elect. In the event that any other officer position becomes vacant, it may be filled on an interim basis by the Chair, subject to confirmation by a majority of those participating in a meeting of the EC called for that purpose.

5. Executive Committee

(a) **Executive Committee.** The EC of the Section shall include the Officers and a minimum of five and a maximum of 16 other members. The terms of all EC members shall be for three years, with each year's annual election limited to replacing those whose term has expired or who have left the EC prior to the completion of their scheduled term during the preceding year without being otherwise replaced in accordance with these bylaws. Except as provided in paragraph (b), absent extraordinary circumstances, no person shall serve longer than six consecutive years as a member of the EC.

(b) **Special Provisions for Past Chairs.** After a year serving as Immediate Past Chair, each Past Chair of the Section shall have the right to continue to serve indefinitely as an ex officio member of the EC, but will not have voting rights nor count towards a quorum while serving in such capacity. After one year of either serving as an ex officio member of the EC or of not serving on the EC in any capacity, Past Chairs may seek to be re-elected to the EC in the same manner as any other member of the Section.

(c) **Quorum Requirements.** The EC shall act on behalf of the Section in the interval between annual meetings. It may act through face-to-face meetings or through telephonic or other electronic or digital conferencing methods. It shall discharge any duties imposed upon it by these bylaws, as well as any duties requiring formal action on the part of the Section by the AALS. To be valid, any actions of the EC require the participation of a quorum of its members then serving. For that purpose a quorum consists of a minimum of one-third of such members.

(d) **Vacancies.** Vacancies in EC positions may be filled between annual meetings if deemed desirable by a 60% majority of the remaining EC members voting on the matter, except that the Chair shall be authorized to fill the minimum number of vacancies necessary to maintain the minimum EC membership specified in these bylaws without first obtaining such a 60% vote. A person so appointed shall have a term of office identical to the person whom he or she replaces. No such action shall be undertaken or deemed effective unless prior notice of the intent to take it has been given to the entire EC and, in the case of an interim appointment by the EC, it occurs at a meeting at which a quorum of the EC is participating.

6. Committees

Standing committees of the EC are hereby established as: ((i) Annual AALS Program, (ii) Communications and Outreach, (iii) Nominations, and (iv) Scholarship, said committees to have the powers and duties specified in paragraphs (a)-(d) below. Special or ad hoc committees may be established by the Chair, by resolution of the EC, or at an annual business meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the Section membership then in attendance. Special or ad hoc committees shall have the powers and duties provided by the body creating them and, in the absence of a specific provision in the instrument creating them to the contrary, shall cease to exist at the end of the year in which they were created; provided, however, that any such committee's existence can be extended by reauthorizing it in a subsequent year by any of the methods that could have been used to establish it initially, either with its original members or with some or all new ones.

(a) **Annual AALS Program Committee.** The Program Committee shall be responsible, along with the Section Chair for determining the topic of the annual Section program and to solicit and select speakers for it, subject to the approval of the EC. The committee shall discharge its duties in a timely manner, in order to ensure that the steps required by the AALS in order to have the Section's program listed in various AALS publications and scheduled as part of the AALS's annual meeting are completed by their various deadlines.

(b) **Communications and Outreach Committee.** The Communications and Outreach Committee shall be responsible for maintaining the section website, publishing its

newsletter and engaging in other efforts to increase section membership and awareness of and participation in section events. The Committee shall also discharge such other duties as are assigned to it by the Chair or the EC.

(c) **Nominations Committee.** As soon as practicable following the annual meeting, the Chair shall appoint for the subsequent year a Nomination Committee. Ideally, the Nomination Committee shall include at least one past Chair and at least three other voting members. The Committee will gather and consider suggestions of persons to serve as officers or EC members, and shall report a slate of nominees to the Board for consideration and approval. Upon finalization of a slate of nominees for officer and EC positions, the Nominations Committee will arrange for that slate to be forwarded to the EC for approval at least 30 days before the AALS annual meeting and to the section's membership at least 21 days prior to that meeting, for election at that meeting.

(d) **Scholarship Committee.** The Scholarship Committee shall be responsible for either generating or assisting in the editing or placement of scholarship related to the Section's activities and interests, whether authored by faculty, law students, or members of the bar. The Committee shall also discharge such other duties as are assigned to it by the Chair or the EC.

7. **Elections.**

Officers and EC members shall be elected, by voice vote or secret ballot as determined by the Chair, at each annual business meeting of the Section. For that purpose, the final slate of persons for such positions as prepared by the Nominations Committee and approved by the EC shall be presented to the membership, without the need for a motion or a second. Additional nominations also may be received from the floor, but require both a motion and a second from a voting member of the Section present at the meeting. A simple majority of those voting members actually present and voting at that meeting is sufficient to elect either the Nominating Committee's slate as a whole, any individual member of it, or any other person duly nominated for a position as an Officer or EC member of the Section.

8. **Policy Statements**

Acting through its EC, the Section may adopt, a proposed statement of policy or similar position on a matter affecting legal education, and may communicate it to members of the Section as well as deans and faculty of members of the ABA-approved schools. However, any such communication shall be accompanied by a disclaimer that the statement is that of the Section and not the AALS. The Section may also post such a communication on its website as long as the statement is preceded immediately by the prominent posting of the disclaimer found in Executive Committee Regulation 1.4(c) with an additional notice that the official AALS position, if any, may be obtained by contacting the AALS National Office., with phone number and e-mail address provided.

9. **Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended at the Section's annual business meeting during the AALS's annual meeting by a 60% majority of the regular members of the section present and voting. Any such amendments so approved shall take effect when approved by the AALS, provided that notice of the proposed amendment, together with a concise statement of its intended purpose and effect, is provided to the Chair at least forty-five days prior to that annual business meeting and by the EC to the membership of the Section at least thirty days prior to such meeting.